

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2016-_____-C

Application of Sprint Communications)	
Company, L.P. for Authority to)	
Discontinue Provision of Certain Wireline)	APPLICATION
1+ Long Distance Message)	
Telecommunications Services and Related)	
Features)	

Sprint Communications Company L.P. (“Sprint”) hereby seeks authorization, pursuant to South Carolina Code section 58-9-300, to discontinue its provision of wireline business long-distance services and associated features. The specific Sprint wireline business long-distance services and associated features being discontinued are Message Telecommunications Service (*i.e.*, 1+ long distance) (“MTS”), Wide Area Telecommunications Service (“WATS”), Toll free Calling a/k/a 800 Calling, Private Line a/k/a Clearline, Switched Data Services, FÖNCARD, Directory Assistance, and Operator Service (collectively, the “Sprint Services”),¹ as well as all business pricing plans associated with the Sprint Services.²

Sprint³ obtained authorization from this Commission to provide the Sprint Services on August 2, 1984, in Docket Number 84-10-C, Order No. 84-622. In response to changing market conditions, Sprint has decided to terminate its provision of the Sprint Services. At this time, Sprint plans to discontinue its provision of the Sprint Services to its remaining customers

¹ Sprint also will cease to provide its outbound international services and features.

² Sprint is the Telecommunications Relay Service (“TRS”) contractor in South Carolina. TRS will not be impacted by the discontinuance of the Sprint Services, as Sprint will continue to provide casual caller interexchange service in support of TRS.

³ The authority initially was granted to Sprint’s predecessor in interest, GTE Sprint Communications Corporation.

effective June 30, 2017, or as soon thereafter as the necessary regulatory approvals are obtained. The proposed discontinuance will not result in material harm to the affected customers because they easily can obtain alternative services from other wireline interexchange carriers. Customers also may purchase substitute long-distance services and features from wireless carriers such as Sprint or from a host of other alternative providers such as interconnected voice over Internet protocol providers.

Sprint provides the following information in support of its application:

1. Name and Address of Carrier: Sprint Communications Company L.P. is located at 6200 Sprint Parkway, Overland Park, Kansas 66251.
2. Date of Planned Service Discontinuance: Sprint plans to discontinue its provision of the Sprint Services described above effective June 30, 2017, or as soon thereafter as approval in this case can be obtained.
3. Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected: Sprint proposes to discontinue the provision of the Sprint Services throughout the State of South Carolina.⁴
4. Brief Description of Type of Service Affected: The Sprint Services affected by this discontinuance include all MTS, operator, FÖNCARD, Toll-Free, Clearline, and Directory Assistance services and features provided to Sprint consumers, with the exception of Casual Caller services provided to TRS users in states where Sprint holds the TRS service provider contract.⁵
5. Brief Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers:

Sprint provided written notice, by first class mail, to its affected subscribers between June 15,

⁴ In the interest of providing a complete picture to this Commission, Sprint also is planning to discontinue providing the Sprint Services in each of the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

⁵ See discussion *supra* at footnote 2.

2016 and July 1, 2016. A sample copy of the notice letter provided to customers is attached hereto as **Attachment A**. Sprint intends to send reminder bill messages to its remaining business customers starting in January, 2017. Sprint also provided notice to the Federal Communications Commission of its intentions, and, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, provided a copy of that notice to the governors and state commissions in each of states and territories. A copy of that notice is being sent to this Commission under separate cover.

6. Brief Description of Number of Customers Affected: The most recent information available to Sprint is that there are approximately 598 business customers who are presubscribed to Sprint for the Sprint Services in South Carolina.

7. Effect of Discontinuance. Sprint is not requesting by this application that the Commission cancel its certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide interexchange services granted in Docket No. 84-10-C by Order No. 84-622, or indeed any certificate held by Sprint. As set out above, Sprint will continue to offer other services and features following its discontinuance of the Sprint Services.

The public convenience and necessity will not be adversely affected by the discontinuance of the Sprint Services and features in question. All customers have been provided notice that affords them ample time to acquire one of the many substitute services that are readily available to them. Sprint, therefore, respectfully requests Commission approval of this Application, and for such other relief as is just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Sprint Communications Company L.P.

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July 12, 2016



Mail date, 2016

Joy Q. Sample
123 Main St.
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**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING DISCONTINUANCE OF
SPRINT WIRELINE LEGACY VOICE LONG DISTANCE SERVICES**

Account Number:

On June 30, 2017, or as soon thereafter as the necessary regulatory approvals can be obtained, Sprint Communications Company L.P. ("Sprint") will no longer provide Sprint wireline legacy voice long distance services and associated features in each of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Due to changing market conditions, Sprint has determined that it should discontinue offering Sprint wireline business long distance voice services over legacy technology and focus on VoIP services. The specific Sprint wireline business legacy voice long distance services and associated features being discontinued include all domestic and international 1+ dialing from pre-subscribed accounts as well as WATS / Toll Free, Private Line, Switched Data Services, Operator Services, Directory Assistance, Directory Assistance Calling, FÖNCARD and all business pricing plans associated with the services listed above. **This discontinuance does not impact any of the Sprint VoIP/IP equivalent services SIP Trunking, SIP Toll Free, SIP International Toll Free, IP, MPLS and Cloud Value Added Services or any of the services related to our Sprint wireless services.**

If you are planning to migrate your WATS, Toll Free, Private Line and Switched Data Services to Sprint's VoIP/IP equivalent services of SIP Trunking and MPLS, **please contact your Sprint Representative promptly to ensure your migration is completed by June 2017.** Alternatively contact Sprint via email at business.customer.care@sprint.com, or via telephone at 844-492-4334 Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST.

If you are not planning to migrate to a VoIP Sprint SIP Trunking IP/MPLS circuit, the discontinuance of the service will impact all of your Sprint 1+ (referred as pre-subscribed long distance carrier services) and the Sprint services listed above. If you choose to continue using a legacy voice TDM circuit from your local telephone service provider to access pre-subscribed long distance voice services, you will need to choose another long distance service provider. Note that a new service provider may require approximately three months to provision service to you. As a result, we strongly recommend that you select a provider *no later than* March 30, 2017. If you are not certain of your options for obtaining replacement pre-subscribed long distance service, you should contact your local telephone service provider and ask which carriers are accepting pre-subscribed customers. You may also contact any of the several companies that serve the business market in your area. An Internet search for "business telecommunications service providers" in your area should provide you with several alternatives. Sprint does not have the ability to select another provider for you. This discontinuance does not impact any of

the Sprint VoIP/IP equivalent services SIP Trunking, SIP Toll Free, SIP International Toll Free, IP, MPLS and Cloud Value Added Services or any of the services related to our Sprint wireless services.

Additionally, if you are a Toll Free customer not planning to migrate to Sprint's VoIP equivalent SIP Toll Free services, you must change your service provider **before June 30, 2017** to ensure that you can retain your current Toll Free Telephone Number with your new provider.

Sprint has notified the Federal Communications Commission and the Public Service Commission of South Carolina of its proposed discontinuance of service. The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service (or reduction or impairment) unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the § 63.71 Application of Sprint Communications Company L.P. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance (or reduction or impairment) upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

For additional information please visit our web page, www.sprint.com/landlinebusinessFAQs. If you have questions concerning this notice, please feel free to contact Sprint via email at business.customer.care@sprint.com, or via telephone at 844-492-4334 Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. We thank you for your business and look forward to continuing to serve you in other capacities.

Sincerely,

Sprint Communications Company L.P.
6200 Sprint Parkway
Overland Park, Kansas 66251